AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A washing machine comprising:

a housing;

a tub installed in the housing;

a drum rotatably installed in the tub to hold a laundry, the drum comprising:

a plurality of lifters on an inner circumference of a sidewall of the drum;

a plurality of columns ~~multitude~~ of perforated holes formed in ~~at~~ the sidewall between the lifters and extending in a longitudinal direction of the sidewall, wherein the columns are formed in the sidewall at regular intervals;~~;~~ and

a joint portion formed in the sidewall and extending ~~on the sidewall~~ in ~~a~~ the ~~length~~ longitudinal direction, wherein the joint portion is spaced from an adjacent column of perforated holes by the same interval as exists between the columns of perforated holes, and wherein the joint portion comprises a plurality of unit joint lines which are separated from each other by the same interval as exists between the perforated holes in the adjacent column of perforated holes~~to be indistinguishable from the lifters and the perforated holes~~; and

a driving means for rotating the drum.

2. (Original) The washing machine as claimed in claim 1, the joint portion comprising:

a first curled end; and

a second curled end engaging the first curled end to be joined.

3. Canceled.

4. Canceled.

5. (Currently Amended) The washing machine as claimed in claim 1 [[4]], wherein the unit joint lines are welding lines.

6. (Currently Amended) The washing machine as claimed in claim 1 [[4]], wherein each of the unit joint lines is a coupling member.

7-9. Canceled.

10. (Currently Amended) The washing machine as claimed in claim 1, wherein the joint portion lies closer to ~~the~~ a corresponding lifter than the adjacent column of perforated holes.

11. (Currently Amended) The washing machine as claimed in claim 1, wherein the joint portion lies between ~~the corresponding~~ a lifter and a column of perforated holes ~~column closest to the lifter~~.

12. (Currently Amended) The washing machine as claimed in claim 1, wherein the joint portion lies between two of the lifters and within ~~to form~~ a group of columns ~~including~~ of perforated holes ~~columns~~, and wherein the joint portion is ~~a first column closest~~ closer to one of the lifters ~~among the group of the~~ than any of the columns of perforated holes.

13. (Currently Amended) The washing machine as claimed in claim ~~1~~ 10, wherein the joint portion ~~lies symmetrical to a first~~ and a column of the perforated holes are located on opposite sides of ~~confronting the joint portion centering around the corresponding~~ a lifter, and wherein the joint portion and the column of perforated holes are symmetrical with respect to the lifter.

14. (Currently Amended) The washing machine as claimed in claim ~~1~~ 10, wherein a distance between the joint portion and a ~~the~~ corresponding lifter is equal to a distance between the ~~corresponding~~ lifter and a first column of the perforated holes located on the opposite side of the ~~confronting the joint portion centering around the corresponding~~ lifter.

15. (Currently Amended) The washing machine as claimed in claim ~~1~~ 10, wherein ~~the corresponding lifter~~ a central axis of one of the lifters lies on a centerline between the joint portion and a first column of the perforated holes located on the opposite side of the corresponding lifter ~~confronting the joint portion centering around the corresponding lifter~~.

16. (New) The washing machine as claimed in claim 1, wherein the lifters are formed in a portion of the inner circumference of the sidewall of the drum where the perforated holes are relatively thin, and wherein the joint portion is formed at a periphery of a corresponding one of the lifters.

17. (New) The washing machine as claimed in claim 16, wherein the joint portion lies closer to the corresponding lifter than the adjacent column of perforated holes.

18. (New) The washing machine as claimed in claim 16, wherein the joint portion is located between the corresponding lifter and the closest column of perforated holes.

19. (New) The washing machine as claimed in claim 16, wherein the joint portion lies between two of the lifters and within a group of columns of perforated holes, and wherein the joint portion is closer to one of the lifters than any of the columns of performed

holes.

20. (New) A washing machine, comprising:

a housing;

a tub installed in the housing,

a drum rotatably installed in the tub, the drum comprising:

a substantially circular base pane; and

a cylindrical sidewall joined to an outer periphery of the base pane, wherein a plurality of columns of perforations are formed in the sidewall at regular intervals, wherein the columns extend in the longitudinal direction of the sidewall, wherein ends of the sidewall are joined together at a joint portion that also extends in the longitudinal direction, and wherein the joint portion is spaced from an adjacent column of perforations by the same interval as exists between the columns; and

a driving means for rotating the drum.

21. (New) The washing machine of claim 20, wherein a plurality of spot welds are formed along the joint portion, and wherein the plurality of spot welds are located in registration with the perforations of an adjacent column of perforations.

22. (New) The washing machine of claim 20, wherein a plurality of joining elements

are installed along the joint portion, and wherein the plurality of joining elements are located in registration with the perforations of an adjacent column of perforations.

23. (New) The washing machine of claim 22, wherein the joining elements comprise rivets.

24. (New) The washing machine of claim 20, wherein the sidewall further comprises a plurality of lifters that are equally spaced around the circumference of the sidewall.

25. (New) The washing machine of claim 24, wherein the joint portion is located adjacent a first side of one of the lifters, wherein a first column of perforations is located adjacent a second opposite side of the lifter, and wherein the joint portion and the first column of perforations are symmetrical about the lifter.